RCE/1731  
Mail Stop RCE**REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000 provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number: 09/986,622

Filing Date: November 9, 2001

First Named Inventor: Giacomo ROBA

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: John M. Hoffmann

Attorney Docket Number: 05788.0189

Attorney Customer Number: 22,852

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**Note:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) instead of a RCE to be eligible for patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See "Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice," Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000). Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (April 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114:** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, application must request non-entry of such amendment.

- a. ☒ Previously submitted. If a Final Office Action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief of Reply Brief previously filed on [Date] \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. ☒ Other Amendment After Final filed February 3, 2004
- b. ☐ Enclosed:
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [number] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

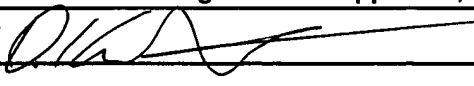
**3. Fees**

- a. ☒ The filing fee is calculated as follows:
- i. ☒ \$770.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) 01 FC:1801 770.00 DA
- ii. ☐ Petition for extension of time for ([number] Months) \$[Fee]
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-0916 in the amount of \$770.00.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

**Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required**

Name: D. Kent Stier

Reg. No.: 50,640

Signature: 

Date: February 25, 2004

**Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: February 25, 2004

Name: Sherleen Goodlette

Signature: 

Date: February 25, 2004